GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
UNIFIED LICENSING SYSTEM
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of unified licensing system for all kinds of telecom services has not come into effect;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to harmonise the interests of various stake holders?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 35 FOR 3RD DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING UNIFIED LICENSING SYSTEM.

(a) The first phase of introducing a Unified Licensing/Authorization Regime has come into effect. The regime is to be established in a two-stage process with the Unified Access License Regime for Basic and Cellular Service in the first phase, to be followed up with a process to define the guidelines and rules for fully Unified License/Authorisation Regime. The Government has approved the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard and Unified Access (Basic & Cellular) services regime has already been implemented. Some of the existing service providers have already migrated to Unified Access License Regime. New service providers have also been issued Letters of Intent under Unified Access License Regime.

An addendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) has been issued in November, 2003 to provide for the following categories of licenses for telecommunication services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology;

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

(b) TRAI in its recommendations had mentioned that recommendations on Unified Licensing for all telecom services will be provided to the Government following a consultation process. TRAI has issued a Preliminary Consultation Paper on Unified Licensing Regime on November, 15, 2003. Based upon the comments received, discussions with various Stakeholders & its own analysis, the TRAI will issue a more detailed Consultation Paper on the matter.

(c) The consultative process of TRAI and the recommendations based thereon, which would form the basis for the Government decision, are expected to take care of the need to harmonise the interests of various Stakeholders.